

[Mr. A. Hoogewerf.]

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel cum Kilavankod*): അതു സമ്മതിക്കുന്നു. രണ്ടു ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെന്റും ഇന്നതാണെന്നു വ്യാഖ്യാനം കൊണ്ടു മനസ്സിലായി. ഓരോ അതിൽ ഒന്നിൽ നിന്നു മുററാനിൽ പോയാൽ അവയ്ക്കത്തെ അവകാശം മുഴുവനും വിട്ടുപോകുമോ എന്നു ഞ ചോദ്യം?

PRESIDENT: Of course, it follows. If the departments are different, it means that.

Opium and Ganja Stock.

29. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): (a) Will the Government be pleased to state:

(i) the quantities of opium and ganja written off the accounts during the years 1096, 1098 and up to the end of Dhanu, in 1099, on the recommendation of the Excise Commissioner, and their value;

(ii) the quantities of opium and ganja purchased from the Madras Stores during these years;

(iii) the quantities sold for consumption during these years, and the value thereof; and

(iv) the quantities that remained in the stores in the Excise Commissioner's office at the close of each of these years and their value?

(b) Has the result of the stock-taking of opium been regularly reported?

(c) Who is the officer in charge of the opium and ganja stores and what are his responsibilities?

(d) Are the Government aware that there were instances of theft of ganja from the stores in the Excise Commissioner's office in 1097 and in the previous years, and, if so, whether such instances were reported, the dates of such reports, the names of the persons involved in the same, the recommendations made by the Commissioner for punishing such persons and the action taken by the Government on such reports?

(e) Are they aware of the fact that the rules and standing orders relating to the storage and issue of these drugs in the central stores in the Excise Commissioner's office and in the stores of the several Assistant Excise Commissioners' offices are not strictly adhered to?

(f) If the answer is in the affirmative, will they be pleased to look into the whole matter and state the result thereof?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):
(a) (i)

Quantity of opium written off.

Year.	Quantity.		Value.		
	Seers.	Tolas.	Rs.	Ch.	C.
1096 ...	"	"	"	"	"
1098 ...	"	"	"	"	"
1099 (first five months)	"	1	"	24	15

Quantity of ganja written off.

1096 by the Excise Commissioner	21	34.75	510	7	9
1096 with Government sanction	3	60.125			
1098 by the Excise Commissioner	6	68.5	157	10	0
1098 with Government sanction	...	5			
1099 (first five months) by the Excise Commissioner	18	60.5	427	23	3

(a) (ii)

Year.	Opium.		Ganja.	
	Seers.		Seers.	
1096	...	5,000	...	5,000
1098	...	4,000	...	1,000
1099 (first five months)	...	2,500	...	1,500

[Mr. S. Paramesvara Aiyar.]

(a) (iii)

Year.	Seers.	Tolas.	Rs.	Ch.	C.
<i>Opium.</i>					
1096 ...	5,285	28.125	2,88,844	15	4
1098 ...	4,703	9	3,13,943	25	9
<i>Ganja.</i>					
1096 ...	4,408	28	93,012	6	6
1098 ...	2,285	...	52,039	23	15
(a) (iv) <i>Opium.</i>					
1096 ...	162	16.315	10,401	2	0
1098 ...	276	16.315	19,679	7	0
<i>Ganja.</i>					
1096 ...	691	25	15,744	9	4
1098 ...	1,093	16.5	24,897	4	0

(b) Yes.

(c) There are opium and ganja stores in the Excise Commissioner's office, in the Excise Division offices, and in the sub-treasuries and taluk offices in Quilon, Kottayam and Devicolum. In the Excise Commissioner's office, the officer in charge of the stores is the Assistant Excise Commissioner, Excise Commissioner's office; in the Division Offices, the Assistant Excise Commissioners; and in the sub-treasuries and taluk offices, the Sub-Treasury Officers or Tahsildars as the case may be. There is also a storekeeper attached to the stores in the Excise Commissioner's office, who keeps one of the double-lock keys. The officers in charge of the stores are responsible for the safe custody of the stuff, the receipt and issue of the same and the maintenance of correct accounts.

(d) The answer is in the negative.

(e) Government had occasion recently to notice that one of the rules relating to the storage of the drugs in the central stores in the Excise Commissioner's office was not strictly observed.

(f) The rules relating to the storage of drugs in the central stores in the Excise Commissioner's office have been found to be defective and steps are being taken to remove the defects.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What are the respective functions of the Assistant Excise Commissioner in charge of the store, and the store-keeper? This is with respect to part (c) of my question.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Under the rules for the storage and issue of ganja, issued by the Government on the 15th August, 1907, as modified by the orders issued in

1909, 1913, 1917 and 1918, the functions of the store-keeper have been distinctly stated. Those rules do not specify the functions of the Assistant Excise Commissioner attached to the Excise Commissioner's office.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was the store-keeper Paramesvaran Pillai in any way punished for loss of ganja in the Central Stores?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): He was punished.

PRESIDENT: Is that question supplemental to (d) ?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes.

PRESIDENT: Your question is: "Are the Government aware that there were instances of theft of ganja from the stores in the Excise Commissioner's Office in 1907 and in the previous years, and, if so, whether such instances were reported, the dates of such reports, the names of the persons involved in the same, the recommendations made by the Commissioner for punishing such persons and the action taken by the Government on such reports?" The answer is in the negative. It means that there is no reported case of theft from the stores. Your question does not arise out of this.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was not a part of the charge brought against Mr. James, Reserve Inspector, that the ganja found in his house was abstracted from the stores of the central office?

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware of the fact that these rules relate only to the storage and issue of those drugs when the central stores were at Quilon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Do not the existing rules require the stores to be at Quilon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Have they been modified?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The stores have been transferred from Quilon to Trivandrum under the orders of the Government.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was the transfer made by a Government notification?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are the Government aware of the fact that the storage and issue of these drugs in the stores at Trivandrum are not governed by these rules but by departmental rules framed subsequently?

[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are both Government rules and departmental rules.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Can departmental rules supersede the Government rules?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): They have not superseded the Government rules.

PRESIDENT: Do not the Government rules say that the stores should be at Quilon?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The rules issued in 1907 refer to the central stores at Quilon. But, with the sanction of the Government, the stores have been removed from Quilon to Trivandrum.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): My question is whether there was any notification.

PRESIDENT: You have already asked that.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to call for the departmental rules and reconsider the whole matter in the light of these rules?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The whole set of rules is being reconsidered. A set of draft revised rules has been forwarded by the Excise Commissioner. These rules are engaging the attention of the Government.

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